

Whip Round Up

From the Office of the Assistant Democratic Leader

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Reid for Nevada

Reid, Ensign Work to Protect Small Businesses

- Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign introduced a bipartisan bill to assist small companies by clarifying the rules for valuating and reporting stock options.

Reid, Ensign Secure Funds for Veterans Hospital

- Senators Reid and Ensign secured \$25 million to begin planning for the construction of a new 81-bed veterans hospital in Las Vegas.

Working with Nevadans

- " Congressional Youth Leadership Council students Tristan Bamberger, Christine Damrau, Julia Leavitt and Jonathan Mackin visited with Senator Reid.

Working in the Silver State

- " Following the Thanksgiving recess, Senator Reid will spend several weeks working in Nevada. He will visit with veterans groups, senior citizens, first responders, school PTA chapters, and attend official functions in northern and southern Nevada.



Reid's Words

I'm proud that a bipartisan group of Senators voted to block the energy bill. The bill was an assault on the environment, and it would have done nothing to free our country from its dependence on foreign oil. We need a national energy policy that looks to the future, not the past.



Senator Reid welcomes former Brigham Young University and Boston Celtics basketball player Danny Ainge. Since his retirement from the NBA, Ainge has become a director and spokesman for United Families International, a group that works to maintain and strengthen the family. One of UFI's projects is Stay Alive, which combats AIDS in Africa.

INSIDER'S CALENDAR: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

- The Senate will remain in session over the weekend, and is expected to consider the following bills: The Medicare conference report; the Omnibus Appropriations bill; Foreign Operations Appropriations conference report; Fair Credit Reporting Act conference report; and any other legislative items cleared for action.

Week in Review

- **'Minibus' Picks Up Speed** - The Omnibus appropriations bill heads toward final passage next week, most likely on Tuesday. But a dispute over proposed Labor Department overtime rules has kept negotiators from completing the bill. Currently the Omnibus includes five spending bills: (1) Commerce-Justice-State; (2) VA-HUD; (3) Agriculture; (4) D.C.; and (5) Labor-HHS. If the conflict on overtime rules cannot be resolved, some have suggested Labor-HHS be dropped from the measure and handled under a continuing resolution. Senator Stevens has indicated there would be no further public meetings of the conferees.
- **Energy Bill Running on Fumes**- A cloture vote on Friday morning fell two votes short of the required 60, leaving the fate of the energy bill in serious doubt. Both sides remain sharply divided over the scope and cost of the bill, as well as the limitations of liability for the fuel additive MTBE. Senators said they would continue working through the weekend to try and bridge their differences.
- **Medicare Measure Looms**- The House was scheduled to vote Friday night on a \$395 billion Medicare reform measure that would provide a new prescription drug benefit and make other structural changes to Medicare. An unusual alliance of opponents to the bill emerged as more details of its 600-plus pages became available. Conservatives say the plan is too costly and fails to include incentives for competition and private plans, while many Democrats say the plan is nothing more than "fools gold" and another step toward ending Medicare as seniors know it. The outcome of the House vote was uncertain, while the Senate planned to take up Medicare over the weekend, with a vote possible on Monday or Tuesday.

<http://reid.senate.gov>

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